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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, FEB. 13, 1913.

MEXICO ON THE ROCKS.

Mexico is beating on dangerous rocks. It would seem that just one circumstance can ward off an international climax. That is the backing down of one of the desperate leaders, whose ambitious indiscretions are bathing the streets of the Mexican capital in blood. Decisive defeat of either combatant seems out of the question and civilization cannot, and will not, permit the gory spectacle to proceed much farther. The daily slaughter is including scores of non-combatants who cannot escape the savage strife. Innocent women and children are mowed down. Foreigners are struck in their own homes by the leaden hail. The city is wrecked by the formidable projectiles of modern field and siege artillery fired in the very heart of the city. The hasty preparations of the United States to interfere in this desperate situation is the final notification to President Madero and Revolutionist Diaz that the thing must cease.

Even a backing down by one side or the other probably will afford but a temporary lowering of high pressure in the Republic. While thousands of combatants are certain, with characteristic Mexican infidelity, to flock to the banner on which advantage rests, yet should either leader withdraw from Mexico City he would take an army with him. It is not within present probabilities that either man will yield. Madero has said he will die fighting rather than resign. Diaz has displayed a similarly desperate determination. Should Madero transfer the seat of government to another point he loses an advantage and fickle thousands will transfer their shallow allegiance to the red standard of Diaz.

When, two years ago, there arose a crisis far less desperate, President Porfirio Diaz resigned at the psychological moment when international complications were at hand. He had not been decisively beaten by Madero, nor was his plight serious. But he said that as a true Mexican, with the welfare of Mexico seriously at heart, he felt that he must make the sacrifice. Madero seems incapable of such splendid patriotism. Selfishness appears to dominate the man and another characteristic is his monumental incapacity.

He has followed the Diaz plan of exploitation of his country for gain, but without the attendant iron-handedness which marked the Diaz methods and which seems so necessary to a successful administration in Mexico. Aside from rapidly exhausting the financial resources of the country and removing confidence of foreign governments that Mexico can meet indemnity claims, Madero has temporized with his most dangerous political enemies. He has sought to placate, to rule by negative rather than positive methods. The fruits of such an administrative policy in Mexico are now being harvested. Mexicans must be ruled by positive methods. They were fitted for nothing better that Porfirio Diaz.

If the United States decides to interfere it will be solely because such a course has become wholly inevitable and unavoidable, at least so far as the Taft Administration is concerned. The Taft "hands-off" policy has been maintained in the light of grave provocation to be less patient. Brigandage, pillage, rapine and murder have stalked up and down the land for more than a year all but unchecked. When stirred by the United States to act, Madero has met each emergency with misrepresentation, even becoming insolent in a recent diplomatic exchange. American citizens have been run out of the land, held for ransom, even murdered. Our patience has been far-reaching and thorough.

If we are compelled to act now it will be in the interest of civilization. An expeditionary army will be designed to afford immediate relief to Americans and foreigners. We must act, in extreme emergency, because through the Monroe doctrine the United States assumes responsibility for the whole American continent. No doubt if our troops are compelled to land on Mexican soil the Mexican combatants, with true Latin-American temperament, will proceed to embrace each other and combine on the common enemy. But then, of course, our back is broad, and such a combination would not seriously embarrass the United States.

WEAKNESS OF BIG MAJORITIES.

The outlook is bad for harmony among the Democrats in the next Congress. As usual with a party having a huge majority, they are splitting into factions. We have the progressives and the conservatives; those who would investigate everything at any cost and those who, like Fitzgerald, assert that the expense would make appropriations unprecedented in amount and would render downward tariff revision a mockery; the two-battleship men and the no-battleship men; the Little Americans and those who would pursue a vigorous foreign policy worthy of a world-power.

The greatest danger to the Democratic party consists in the unwieldy size of its majority. Experience proves that a party having a small majority is usually actuated by unity of purpose and stands in serried ranks to carry through its policy. The Republicans never had such effective, coherent control of the House as when, under the leadership of Reed from 1889 to 1891, they had a majority of only seven. The seeds of division were sown by the large majorities they had under Speakers Henderson and Cannon, and the efforts of the latter to hold his forces in line were accompanied by a gradual whittling down of the majority after the beginning of Roosevelt's second term. He unwittingly aided the growth of the progressive revolt until it culminated in the overthrow of Cannonism.

The big majority possessed by the Democrats is a source of weakness, not of strength, for it inevitably generates the tendency to split into factions, the smaller of which, by allying itself with the minority party, may deprive the leaders of control. Clark and Underwood have before them the herculean task of holding their party together, at a time when the progressive movement is having a disintegrating effect on all parties and is tending toward a new alignment.

MUNICIPAL CONDUCT OF SALOONS.

Why should we not consider municipal ownership of saloons? Why should such a move smack too much of Socialism? What does The Oregonian think of such a proposition?—Pilot Rock Record.

Not much, not very much; mainly because we think very little of the saloon and very little of Socialism. Our friend the Record has been inspired to offer its surprising suggestion by the reflection that the single saloon at Pilot Rock makes a great deal of money, and pays only $1500 annual license. "By doing this," urges the Pilot Rock reformer, "would the town be any more engaged in the saloon business than at the present time?"

If the town is now in the saloon business and conditions are intolerable, how would they be improved if the saloons were to be taken over directly?

THE ELECTRIC AGE IS HERE.

Substitution of electric for steam power on main line railroads is coming by degrees. The plan of the Milwaukee road to electrify its whole system from Harlowtown, Mont., to the Coast is the most ambitious step in that direction, but it has been preceded by other steps in the same direction.

Such is the network of trolley lines throughout the Eastern and Middle States, which began as a number of local lines, but has been linked together into a system, repeating the history of the development of steam railroads. Such also is the use of electric power on the Baltimore and New York terminals of steam railroads and in the Cascade tunnel of the Great Northern Railroad.

With our abundant water power we may see the present era of construction of trolley lines in the Willamette Valley followed by electrification of such through lines as that of the O.-W. R. & N. from Huntington to Portland and that of the Southern Pacific through the Siskiyous. Other railroad companies will surely watch the Milwaukee's experiment and be ready to imitate if it proves successful.

A VOICE FROM THE U'RENIC TOMB.

The Oregonian hears again today from Mr. U'Ren, who abandons the championship of his own failing cause to adopt the old device of abusing the opposition. The illumination of journalistic or personal records is indeed a more or less fruitful pastime. If The Oregonian should choose to retaliate in kind upon Mr. U'Ren, it might easily offer a sketch of his personal activities since he came to Oregon not agreeable to him; but it will confine itself to U'Ren and the U'Ren measures.

There never was a U'Ren bill that did not contain a joker or trick, or a deliberate attempt to turn favorable public opinion on some important issue into a political asset for U'Ren and his group. It is knavish business; but it is U'Renic. Now the public knows U'Ren, distrusts U'Renism and turns away from him and his system. Well it may. His day is done; he is a mere hireling of a discredited and impossible single-tax extravaganza, and whatever he does or tries to do hereafter will be referred in the public mind to his meal ticket. All the reforms he has proposed through the Oregon system had as their ultimate his present service to Joseph Fels. Thus U'Ren has always smelled his particular from the general weal.

The Oregonian supported the direct primary, and advocated the adoption of the present law; but it complained about Statement One after its purpose had been disclosed, and declared that its results would be to elect Democratic United States Senators. The Oregonian has said, and repeats, that the corrupt practices act is full of absurdities, and we have only to cite the act itself as abundant proof. Here again U'Ren took advantage of a commendable public desire to end the era of corruption in our politics and among our candidates to disfigure the Oregon statute books with the travesty on a correct and practicable statute.

The Oregonian approved, and approves, a Presidential primary law, but it distinctly objected, and yet objects, as the people now undoubtedly object, to the narrow proportional representation scheme—strictly U'Renic in motive and method—that permits the voter to vote for one candidate only and that led directly to the unseemly and unprofitable squabble in a discordant delegation at Chicago last June. It is not true that The Oregonian attacked the three-fourths jury system; it is true that it opposed the extraordinary judicial amendment fathered by U'Ren in 1910 and fairly bristling with blemishes, uncertainties, twisters and other characteristic U'Renisms. It cannot manifest regret for following the plain path of its duty as it saw its duty then and sees its duty now. There may be profit in hypocritical evasion or easy prostitution of honest opinion and clear conviction; but The Oregonian has never learned the way.

The Oregonian has been the one outspoken voice in Oregon against U'Ren and U'Renism in Oregon. It has seen, as the people now see, that he has sought to capitalize the Oregon system to his own advantage, and that he has gone far beyond the limits of rational and safe reform in his recent outgivings. He has descended from his position as a prophet of the people to be a mere paid lobbyist for a dangerous and vicious propaganda; and he has confessed that all his life he has aimed at the single-tax and that he procured the initiative and referendum solely with that ultimate object. If he has given the people more power, others have given them a clearer insight into his personal schemings and subtle maneuverings. If he has given us the initiative and referendum, others more wise and less selfishly interested have prevented him from giving Oregon the single tax. If he has given us the direct primary, others have striven, against the hostile expression of an inspired clamor, to prevent him from destroying representative government.

If the record of things done through U'Ren is to be balanced with the record of things attempted by him, but balked by The Oregonian and by the people who have with The Oregonian approved progress with prudence and experimentation with caution, we shall have no reason to be disturbed about the showing.

ALTERNATE CAR STOPS.

The Oregonian prints today a letter from a Sunnyside home owner who estimates the increase in the value of his property, as a result of the alternate stop system established over the street carline that serves that part of the city, at $500. It is probable that the estimate is not excessive. Observant patrons of the line have noted several improvements in the service since the new plan was inaugurated. In addition to saving of running time, there has been less congestion of traffic; the cars are able better to maintain a fixed schedule and stopping and starting of cars is accomplished with much less jerking. Maintenance of a fixed time schedule and freedom from congestion permit a better distribution among the cars of the crowds during the rush periods.

These improvements are most apparent to the steady patrons of the streetcars. For them 25 per cent of the annoyances incident to living beyond walking distance is removed. If the plan is continued in operation it ought to, and it will, promote homebuilding on the East Side. If anybody has any doubt about it, let him inquire in Piedmont or Irvington as to the effect on homeseeking and realty values of the approaching completion of the Broadway bridge, and its promised reduction of time in transit between those sections and the business district.

The change is peculiarly adapted to Portland and particularly to the East Side lines. The East Side offers a natural area of expansion for the residential section. But it is removed from the business section fully one-fourth mile by the breadth of the Willamette River. The arteries of traffic must always be a comparatively few bridges with the possible addition of a subway in the future. Congestion of cars on one line of several using one of these arteries demoralizes schedules on all. The West Side lines are shorter; there are a greater number of arteries of travel in proportion to population and the major part of the district may be said to lie "close in." Need of the alternate stop system west of the river is not apparent and the change perhaps would not be desirable.

But on the East Side let objectors weigh advantages against disadvantages. We have enumerated the former. What are the latter? Merely an additional walk of 260 feet (counting street width), not twice, but once in a day, by the car patron who makes but one round trip daily, for the car stops at his nearest corner either inbound or outbound. Two hundred and sixty feet can be covered in one minute by the man or woman able to accomplish the moderate pace of three miles an hour. Yet we are told that this trifling exercise is considered a hardship by 800 residents of Sunnyside who have signed a petition for a return to the old system!

NATURAL SELECTION AND DESIGN.

The lecturer on evolution at the Lowell Institute this season is to be Professor Lawrence J. Henderson, of Harvard. He seems to be an excellent choice for the duty for many reasons, but chiefly because he retains a little common sense about Darwin and his work. It is fashionable nowadays to speak of Darwin as a back number and to protest glibly that his doctrines have been thrown out of court. Natural selection in particular, the reactionaries gleefully tell us, is dead for good and all. It was freely predicted that when Dr. Vries came to this country to lecture on evolution he would give Darwin's renown its quietus and we should hear no more of the great Englishman and his discoveries. But De Vries came. He explained his "mutation theory" which was to be so fatal to natural selection and opened his explanation by cautioning his hearers that he disagreed with Darwin "only in unimportant particulars." Mutation is an interesting minor phenomenon of evolution which scientific men do not pretend as yet to be able to explain, but natural selection holds precisely the same place as it did forty years ago. It is and will remain the fundamental principle of explanation as far as the origin of species is concerned.

Professor Henderson virtually takes this ground in the syllabus of his projected lectures. He is indeed of the opinion that natural selection has operated more or less under the control of a designing authority, but he is careful to exclude the possibility of anything like the old-fashioned "teleology." In other words he believes in design, but not in purpose. The design which he seems to perceive in the universe is merely that of a mechanic who constructs a machine. Every part is fitted into its place so deftly that the whole works harmoniously, but Professor Henderson does not go so far as to say that the machine was built for any particular purpose. It may have been or it may not. Teleology is entirely outside the domain of science. The question whether there is mechanical design in the world or not is purely one of evidence. It is undeniable that harmonies of the most astonishing sort greet us on every hand. The insect which lays its eggs in the undeveloped seed of a plant and then fertilizes the flower to make sure that the seed shall develop and provide its young with food certainly appears to act with definite purpose and such arrangements are so numerous that a powerful argument may be built up from them. But on the other hand the disharmonies of the world are just as numerous and often far more impressive. They gain force from the fact that many of them are ethical. Herbert Spencer cites one in his biology which is typical of hundreds. He mentions a minute germ which lodges in the human eyeball and there develops into a creature of some size, causing excruciating pain to its host as its growth proceeds. The miserable creature has no sense organs and no brain to speak of. It merely lives and produces agony. If it is the fruit of design the designer must have been evil.

In fact the argument from design has long been abandoned by cautious theologians because it can be used far more efficiently to prove that God is evil than that he is good. If he planned the universe, we are told, he planned its useless suffering as well as its agreeable features and he must be held answerable for all of it. To be sure, certain logicians assure us that the suffering contributes in some way to a remote purpose which we do not understand, but this is so evidently an evasion that it has no weight. An all-powerful deity who was good could have designed a universe without pain. If he could not, then his power was limited, to say nothing of his wisdom. So the design theory falls of its own weight on the ethical side at least. If those who uphold it could only confine us to the harmonies of the universe and shut out the discords all would go well with them, but unhappily they cannot. This seems to be about Professor Henderson's position. He admits such design as a mechanic employs in constructing an implement for which he has no use, but nothing more. Plainly this throws us back on natural selection, since design without purpose must be devoid of intelligence. The hand of the builder happened to work in that way. It might just as well have worked some other way in different circumstances. This is only another manner of stating the law of natural selection.

Even the mutations of De Vries which have figured so hugely of late in moonshiny quasi-scientific speculations must be reckoned among Darwin's "fortuitous variations." They are a little ampler than such variations usually are, but that makes no difference about their origin. The puzzling question in evolution has always been how the variations are caused. Once grant that they have actually occurred and the rest is easy by the law of natural selection and survival of the adapted. We can make two suppositions as to their origin and we cannot rationally make more than two. Either the physical causes of all possible variations were wrapped up in the first living cell that existed on earth, or new causes have been admitted to the germs of life in the course of its history. Modern thought trends strongly toward the former supposition. We are told by the leading biologists of the day that no new factors are ever admitted to the stream of heredity. Hence all of those that exist must have been contained in the original cell. But that does not matter a jot as far as natural selection is concerned. From whatever cause variations have originated the incontestable fact remains that they have originated in some way and that the useful ones have been preserved by a process of survival. A variation adapted to the environment has given its possessor an advantage in the struggle for existence and his progeny have inherited it and won their way to success. Explain this by whatever hypothesis we may, the fact itself remains and this is all that Darwin upheld in his writings on evolution.

When Wilson said at Chicago, "You must put the credit of this country at the disposal of everybody on equal terms, he evidently meant that the same test should be applied in all cases. The Saturday Evening Post says that, where the collateral and the standing of the borrower are the same, credit is extended with perfect equality. It should be, but it is not always. A man of the highest standing may try to raise money on unexceptionable collateral, but if the enterprise in which he wishes to invest the money would compete with some enterprise in which the banker is interested, can he always raise the capital? When the greatest banks, which alone are able to make loans of the largest magnitude, are all controlled by a small coterie of men who also control nearly all the railroads and big industries, the chance of securing from these banks the money to build a competing railroad or factory is extremely slim. Doubtless Wilson had in mind such cases when he uttered the words quoted.

Very likely the dollar bill which an Albany man mailed without a wrapper a day or two ago will go to its destination safely. The sum of money is too small to risk stealing and the novelty of the affair might insure safety even if the bill were larger. But a second experiment of the same sort might not succeed so well. Were postoffice patrons to make a practice of sending loose money in the mails, they would corrupt the service. Citizens are under obligation not to tempt public servants, just as every householder should guard the honesty of his domestics.

There is a fruitful subject for some genius to write about in "The Psychology of Bank Depositors." They are a timorous race, especially those whose funds are in savings banks, and any trifle may throw them into a panic. At Elyria, O., the other day the legend "No funds" stamped on a worthless check was sufficient to bring thousands of depositors hurrying to withdraw their money. They were poor, ignorant people who ought to have known better, but probably such panics will happen as long as savings banks are permitted to fail corruptly.

A renowned physician declares in a recent article that the ideal human food is the potato. He says it contains all the substances required by the body and needs but little cooking. It is free from woody fiber and easily digested if one does not overload the stomach. According to his view, a vegetarian diet might be constructed with the potato for a basis which would be both wholesome and agreeable.

Would the Kaiser's only daughter have become betrothed to Prince Ernst August if she had not been a Princess and he had not been a Prince and if there had not been strong reasons of state for the Kaiser to bring about the match? But perhaps they will be as happy as some of the couples that end their troubles at Reno.

One would have thought that West Virginia legislators would know better than to fall into a bribery trap in these days of the dictagraph and of detectives who make a specialty of trailing bribers and grafters.

South Carolina will not figure in the inaugural parade. Blease's blood boils at the suggestion to march behind the colored troops. He will not be missed.

Talk does not build roads, but if continued long enough the roads will again be good and the talking will cease by limitation.

Why don't the makers of women's fashions try to squeeze woman into one leg of a pair of trousers and be done with it?

There are 1257 people entitled to place in Oregon's "Who's Who?" That many automobile licenses have been issued.

Yesterday was a holiday for those who handle money, but not for people who earn it.

A local thief stole a ten-gallon jug of vinegar and will be caught when pickled.

West is snapping the whip, but there is no crack to it.

Stars and Starmakers

By Leone Cass Baer.

In Los Angeles the benefit held for "Little Alma," the telephone operator at the Burbank theater, netted $2500. Alma has long been a semi-invalid and the money is to be used for medical treatment. On the programme were a lot of names familiar to Portlanders. The Burbank stock company presented "Mother" with Donald Bowles as the spoiled son, Beatrice Nichols as the younger sister, Thomas MacLarme as the family lawyer, and Lillian Elliott in the title role. Nat Goodwin presented Paul Armstrong's sketch "A Blaze of Glory," Phyllis Partington and Arthur Albro sang "Gypsy Love" melodies and Louise Gunning sang her famous Scotch numbers. A bevy of women whose husbands are identified with the theatricals sold candy, flowers and programmes. These were: Mrs. Oliver Morosco, Mrs. James Neil, Mrs. Grace Travers Montrose, Mrs. John Burton, Mrs. Charles Eyeton, Miss Beatrice Nichols, Miss Selma Payley and Mrs. Henry Stockbridge. Besides these, performers from the various vaudeville and musical comedy houses contributed to the entertainment. A moving picture of the little lady herself closed the big programme. Between acts the orchestra played "Alma, Where do You Live?"

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Among the early attractions at the Heilig Theater will be Chauncey Olcott, under the management of Henry Miller, in the romantice Irish play, "The Isle o' Dreams."

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Lina Abarbanell will remain under the management of John Cort, despite reports sent out by a certain producing manager to the contrary. Mr. Cort is casting about for a suitable musical play for the fascinating little Viennese prima donna, and makes positive statement that Mme. Abarbanell will again be seen on Broadway this season in a new production that he will have for her, which contradicts the present rumor that she is to come to the Pacific Coast before Spring.

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Rose Stahl, in her newest success, "Maggie Pepper," will come West for a limited tour.

* * *

Donald Brain, who danced himself into fame in the original production of "The Merry Widow," in the role of Prince Danilo, is coming to Portland for the first time next month, when he will be seen as the star in Charles Frohman's production of "The Siren."

* * *

Mayo Methot has been engaged by telegraph from Spokane for a four weeks' engagement at the American stock theater, where she will appear in "Mother," "The Awakening of Helen Ritchie," "A Man's World" and "Sapho," in each of which she will play the child's role.

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In the San Francisco Review is this line: "Lee Willard is rehearsing with Mrs. Langtry, now playing over the Orpheum time. Mr. Willard is a stock actor who has appeared often in Portland.

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The death in London of Frederick Tillisch, a well-known Pacific Coast business man, recalls the fact that Mrs. Tillisch is known professionally as Eva Stirling. Mrs. Tillisch is now in Chicago.

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Grace Raymond, formerly with the Edna May Spooner stock company in Brooklyn, has arrived to join the Princess stock company in Tacoma and will make her first appearance in next week's bill, "Pierre of the Plains." George Cleveland, a well-known Coast defender, has also joined the company.

* * *

Marie Baker has joined the Kelly stock company in Salt Lake City. Edith Lyle, for two consecutive years leading woman at the College Theater, in Chicago, one of the largest and most important stock houses in the country, has been engaged by William J. Kelly at the Colonial for leading woman of his company.

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From the San Francisco Dramatic Review is this taken, which is of interest, inasmuch as "Broadway Jones" just left us:

Adele Rogers, the 17-year-old daughter of Attorney Earl Rogers, of Los Angeles, a stage-struck girl, was almost forcibly returned to her home in Los Angeles last week under telephonic orders from her father. The father had received word that she was about to elope with Ralph Morgan, leading man of the Broadway Jones company, but the daughter denied this. She said she had planned to get on the stage in Chicago when the company got back there and was soon to start for rehearsals for her part. Miss Rogers came to the St. Francis Hotel a week ago from Los Angeles, with the consent of her parents, she claimed. She was visiting Edith Luckett, a member of the "Broadway Jones" company. When Lawyer Rogers received the alarming report that his daughter was to elope with Actor Morgan, he telephoned a taxicab man at the St. Francis and, it is stated, ordered Adele put on a train for home at once. The instructions were carried out hurriedly and the girl boarded a Southern Pacific train in an evening gown. She was in tears at the interruption in her ambition to go on the stage.

* * *

Phyllis Partington, who comes here in the prima donna role of "Gypsy Love," is one of a family of talented San Franciscans. Eight years ago little Phyllis Partington played a small role at the old Tivoli and her advance since that time in musical comedy has been almost sensational.

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Maude Leone has leased "The Getaway" to Charles Bachman, who will play the sketch over the big time in the East, Canada and Mexico. Miss Leone is now leading woman with Vancouver, B. C., stock.

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Adeline Genee, the world-famous danseuse, who comes to the Heilig tomorrow night, will give an entire change of programme on Saturday night. Genee brings along her own company of dancers, her own orchestra, special scenery and costumes.

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R. B. McKenzie has closed with the Baker players to go to Aberdeen, Wash., as director with the Bijou stock.

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From Los Angeles, via "The Rounder," comes news that John W. Considine, active head of the big theatrical firm of Sullivan & Considine, has carried out a desire, expressed some time ago, to make his future residence in Southern California. Mrs. Considine, who, with her daughter, Ruth, has been wintering in and about Los Angeles, has purchased through the Considine agents property in Santa Monica, on which Mr. Considine will immediately begin the erection of a Summer home to cost not less than $50,000.

It is also Mr. Considine's intention to build one of the most modern stables in Southern California, which when completed will cost over $10,000, and which will house the Considine show horses, which have carried away a majority of the blue ribbons at the recent horse shows in the Northwest.

PROFIT SEEN IN ALTERNATE STOPS

Time Saved Enhances Value of Realty, Declares Lot Owner.

PORTLAND, Feb. 12.—(To the Editor.)—Permit a Sunnyside resident to defend the new system of stopping cars at every other street.

Any convenient arrangement that hastens transit to and from the West Side adds value to residence land on the East Side. I am frank to say that slow car travel has made me almost wish I had not built my home on the East Side; yet the Sunnyside line offers as frequent service as any other in Portland. I located there because of that service. But even with the best carline in East Portland, I have wished myself back on the West Side, where I could ride without such exasperating delays. Each trip, at crowded periods, used to take half an hour. Stopping at every block, or every 200 feet, the cars made snail pace.

The new system is an improvement. It shortens the ride between five and ten minutes. It gives the feeling that one is traveling the ground and that close-in residents are not getting all the best of the ride, in the matter of time.

Every five minutes saved means hundreds of dollars added to the value of every lot tributary to the carline. Why do so many persons refuse to make homes on the East Side? Because of the long-delayed car ride. Let us think it over.

As a matter of sense and reason, stops 400 feet apart are frequent enough. By walking a short distance, one or two passengers can save a half-minute stop for the 50 or 60 others inside the car. Ten or 15 fewer stops on a trip mean many minutes saved for all.

Let us get used to the new arrangement, keep it, save time and add to value of our lots and to serenity of our patience.

The undersigned writes as a homeowner, who delights to spend a minute longer walking to and from the car, just to save six or eight minutes in the car ride. That means a net saving of five or seven minutes, doesn't it? I figure that the value of my two lots is enhanced thereby at least $500 each. That is $100 a minute for five minutes saved, isn't it? SUNNYSIDE.

MR. U'REN DISCUSSES JOKERS

With a Few Remarks About The Oregonian's Record.

OREGON CITY, Or., Feb. 11.—(To the Editor.)—I think you will give me a little space for reply to your personal remarks of last Sunday concerning my character as a politician. The Oregonian's understanding of what constitutes a "joker" or "trick" in a measure is that it is something to abolish some form of graft or corruption, or to make special privileges less profitable.

The Oregonian thundered editorially for nearly four years that Statement No. 1 was a "joker" inserted in the direct primary law by U'Ren. The corrupt practices law was filled with "jokers" in the minds of The Oregonian editors. Anything looking toward proportional representation, or applying it in any form, is another "trick" and "joker" and therefore The Oregonian was against the Presidential primary law. The amendment allowing verdicts by three-fourths of a jury was another of U'Ren's "jokers." If one listened to The Oregonian's editorials and the corporation lawyers. That amendment abolished the business of jury bribing in Oregon.

All of the things The Oregonian looks upon as "jokers," and with which I have had anything to do, have resulted in giving to the people of Oregon more power, or interfering with some graft. But The Oregonian has learned some things. All of these measures, especially Statement No. 1, are now recognized by the editors as good and wholesome laws. I have hope that some day in the blessed future The Oregonian will be proclaiming to the reading world the very great practical advantages of the single tax as applied in Oregon. W. S. U'REN.

Two Sides to Car Stop Question.

PORTLAND, Feb. 12.—(To the Editor.)—The reader of the newspaper reports of Monday's Council committee meeting on streetcar grievances would get the mistaken idea that Mt. Tabor and Sunnyside people were all petitioning for stopping the cars at every street. The fact is there were two sets of petitions presented, both voluminous. Speeches were made for and against. The Sunnyside people, who get cars about every three minutes, want stops at every street. Mount Tabor and Montavilla people, who have a 10-minute service, want alternate stops.

A school teacher, whose school is on East Fourteenth street, bemoaned the fact that she must get off at Fifteenth street and walk a block! Just as though in these days of out-door gospel she did not know that 10 blocks before and after school would do her and her pupils a world of good!

Please let your readers know that there are two sides to this question, and Mount Tabor, Montavilla, Mount Scott, Rose City Park, Parkrose, Sellwood, the Waverly and other populous suburbs are entitled to consideration. In my judgment, if the old plan of stopping every 230 feet is returned to, it will be because these districts are asleep at the switch. R. M. TUTTLE.

Congress.

SHERWOOD, Or., Feb. 10.—(To the Editor.)—Please tell me the number of Representatives and Senators in the United States Congress, and also the number of population that it takes to every representative. D. O.

In the Congress which convenes March 4, 1913, there will be 96 Senators and 435 Representatives. Representation in the House is on the ratio of one to 212,407 of population.

In Your Spare Time, Please.

Indianapolis News.

If twelve persons were to agree to dine together every day, but never sit exactly in the same order around the table, it would take them thirteen million years at the rate of one dinner a day, and they would have to eat more than 479 million dinners before they could get through all the possible arrangements in which they could place themselves.

Parole Requirements.

PORTLAND, Feb. 12.—(To the Editor.)—Please tell me if a man paroled from the State Penitentiary is required to have $25 to his credit before they will release him. A READER.

No money is required for a paroled prisoner, although he must be assured of a position that will make him self-sustaining.

INFORMATION FOR CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications intended for this page of The Oregonian should not contain more than 250 words. The editor will use his discretion in cutting letters of greater length. Correspondents who prefer rejection of their manuscripts to having parts eliminated should so state.

The Oregonian will not by mail supply addresses, statistics, data for debates or similar information.

Queries of general interest will be answered when practicable, but The Oregonian will not undertake to place values on old coins or curios or give legal advice in detailed controversies. Legal inquiries should be confined to general law points.

In the Flat Below

By Dean Collins.

A man, and a peaceful man was he,
Lived in greatest tranquillity
In a flathouse. Peaceful he lived, I say,
But that is just in a general way.
For day and night, his peace and quiet
Were broke by an unremitting riot,
Of crash and smash and bang and blow
From the bunch that lived in the flat below.

From time to time, as he heard their scraps,
He murmured mildly: "I say, old chaps,
Nix on the noise; soft pedal low!
There are other folks in the house you know,
And much as I hate to make trouble here,
I may be obliged to interfere."
But they only started another go—
The ginks that lived in the flat below.

He cried, "Long suffering I may be,
But this gets wearisome even to me!
Can it!" But still they kept their flow
Of noise—the ginks in the flat below.
Sharply he spake: "Now, that will do,
Or I may come and sit down on you."
But the fight still rumbled to and fro
Twixt the ginks that lived on the floor below.

Till all the flat dwellers cried in a breath:
"This uproar pesters us half to death.
Let it be finished, bottled, canned,
Or we are going to take a hand."
Then the peaceful man in his slippers shod,
Picked up a bat and a cleaning rod,
And pattered out through the hall, to go
And clean the bunch in the flat below.

"Far better that I should paddle them well,"
He mused: "Because of their fuss and yell,
Then all the neighbors, in anger grim,
Should grab them and rend them limb from limb.
I hate to do it, but I've a hunch
I'll have to go down and clean that bunch,
Which breaks the peace of our flathouse so,
With rioting round on the floor below."

The moral: The peaceful chap, we'll say,
Is the long, long suffering U. S. A.,
Though it almost seems, as I pen this rhyme,
That it's getting close about spanking time,
For certain parties in Mexico—
The ginks that live in the flat below.

Portland, February 12.

Twenty-five Years Ago

From The Oregonian of Feb. 13, 1888.

Pittsburg, Pa., Feb. 12.—Ben Jones, chairman of the National Republican Committee, has received a letter from Mr. Blaine declining to allow his name to be presented to the Republican National Convention as a candidate for the Presidency.

New York, Feb. 11.—Among the cabin passengers on the steamer City of Chicago, which sailed this morning for Liverpool, was Mrs. Folsom, mother of Mrs. Cleveland, who came on from Washington and saw her mother off.

Washington, Feb. 3.—The Senate passed the bill introduced by Senator Dolph to authorize Dalles City to construct a bridge across the Columbia River.

Washington, Feb. 2.—The House committee on territories is still wrestling with the Dakota problem and has not yet had time to give its attention to the claims of Washington Territory.

The efforts of Professor Frank Rigler, principal of Park School, to maintain discipline in his chool have been approved by the jury before which the case was tried Saturday. At 11 o'clock yesterday morning the verdict of acquittal was read.

The friction elevator heretofore used in The Oregonian office, having been superseded by the introduction of a hydraulic elevator, is offered for sale at a bargain.

At last Portland will have a long-felt want filled by the construction of a cold-storage warehouse. Space sufficient for six rooms eight feet square and 12 feet high in connection with Harris & Salmon's ice factory on Second street has been leased for that purpose by William McGuire & Co.

Revs. F. S. Noel, late of Gettysburg, Pa., and J. S. Brouillard, of Canada, were ordained to priesthood during the celebration of pontifical high mass by Archbishop Gross at the Catholic Cathedral yesterday morning.

During the military hop at Bishop Scott Academy Saturday Dr. J. W. Hill presented Mrs. Foreman, the dancing teacher, in behalf of the young ladies, a beautiful gold shawl pin in form of a tambourine.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of Feb. 13, 1863.

Gold is at 100 per cent premium and silver at 50.

Nashville, Feb. 1.—The Knoxville Register says it has positive information that General Joe Johnston will in person command the Army in Middle Tennessee.

Charleston, Jan. 31.—This morning the gunboats Palmetto State and Chicora, accompanied by three small steamers under Commodore Ingraham, made an attack on the blockaders and succeeded in sinking two vessels and crippling a third.

The steamer Pacific brought up $100,000 for Major Winston, paymaster at Fort Vancouver. By far the larger portion of it was in coin, say, $70,000.

The steamer Vancouver had great difficulty in coming from Vancouver yesterday morning. The slush ice was running from three to five feet thick. Unless the weather moderates the river will be closed.

The board of fire delegates organized last night by electing E. G. Randall president, T. Brooke Trevitt secretary and Harris Seymour treasurer.

Ascent of Mount McKinley.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 12.—(To the Editor.)—I believe I read an account in The Oregonian not long ago of an authentic ascent of Mount McKinley, Alaska, by a woman accompanied by a man.

Can you advise me whether or not there has ever been a successful ascent of Mount McKinley? F. B. SPRINGER.

One or more parties from Fairbanks, Alaska, aver they have scaled Mount McKinley, and their stories of the feat have been published by The Oregonian. So far as The Oregonian has observed no geographical or scientific society has conceded the authenticity of any reported ascent to the extreme summit of the peak.

Sabotage.

ASTORIA, Or., Feb. 10.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly give me the definition of the word Sabotage. I cannot find it in Webster. F. M. R.

Sabotage is a French term for acts of retaliation by employes against employers for real or fancied wrongs—acts that are not in the nature of direct physical violence. It may mean loafing on the job, displacing tools, intentional turning out of defective work or the like.